# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10/657,546 | 09/08/2003 | Clifford Neil Didcock | 502080-A-11-US (Didcock) | 9884 |

| 7590 | 11/29/2006 |
|---|---|

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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| GAUTHIER, GERALD |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2614 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Office Action Summary** | 10/657,546 | DIDCOCK ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Gerald Gauthier | 2614 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 September 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.    2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is

    closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage

        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) |     Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|     Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) ☐ Other: _____ . |

## DETAILED ACTION

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.      The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.      **Claim(s) 1-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Barsness et al. (US 7,085,758 B2).

Regarding **claim(s) 1**, Barsness discloses a messaging system comprising a

plurality of distributed front-end messaging systems (214 on FIG. 2) and a centralized

data store (230 on FIG. 2) associated with said distributed front-end messaging

systems, the distributed front-end messaging systems being remotely located from one

another and from the centralized data store (column 6, lines 4-17), the centralized data

store being adapted for communication with said distributed front-end messaging

systems over a network, the centralized data store including means for storing data

associated with users of the distributed front-end messaging systems (column 6, lines

30-42), the at !east distributed front-end messaging systems further including a

respective means for storing respective different portions of the centralized data

(column 7, lines 12-22), the respective different portions being associated with

respective subsets of the users of said distributed front-end messaging systems, such

that at least one messaging function can be provided to a given one of the users of a

given one of said distributed front-end messaging systems in dependence on the

portion of the centralized data stored therein (column 7, lines 23-33).


Regarding **claim(s) 2 and 3**, Barsness discloses on item 214 Fig. 2, front-end

distributor (claimed "centralized front-end messaging system") associates with

database.


Regarding **claim(s) 5,** Barsness discloses on (column 7, lines 23-33), front-end

distributor (claimed "centralized front-end messaging system") provides voice message

services (claimed "at least one messaging function").


Regarding **claim(s) 6**, Barsness discloses on (column 7, lines 23-33), the front-

end distributor (claimed "centralized front-end messaging system") distributes voice

messages to voice message server (claimed "distributed front-end messaging system").

The front-end distributor must identify the voice message server for distribution of the

voice messages.


Regarding **claim(s) 7**, Barsness discloses on (column 7, lines 23-33), operator

data includes ANI (claimed "a calling number") and called party number.

Regarding **claim(s) 9**, the database (item 230 Fig. 2) as disclose by Barsness

must have configuration data (database configuration).

Regarding **claim(s) 10**, Barsness discloses on item 214 Fig. 2, VRU (claimed

"call answering").

Regarding **claim(s) 11 and 17**, Barsness discloses on (column 7, lines 23-33),

call processing system (reads on claimed "subscriber access function").

Regarding **claim(s) 12**, Barsness discloses on item 214 Fig. 2, a plurality of

independent voice message servers (reads on claimed "a respective voice mail

domain").

Regarding **claim(s) 13**, Barsness discloses on item 224 Fig. 2, a switch.

Regarding **claim(s) 14**, Barsness discloses a method of configuring a messaging

system, the messaging system comprising a plurality of distributed  front-end

messaging systems and a centralized data store associated with said  distributed front-

end messaging systems, the distributed front-end messaging systems being remotely

located from one another and from the centralized data  store, the centralized data store

being adapted for communication with said distributed front-end messaging systems

over a network (column 1, lines 7-10), the method comprising:

storing, in the centralized data store, data associated with all users of the

distributed front-end messaging systems (column 6, lines 4-17);

storing, a in the distributed front-end messaging systems, respective different

portions of said centralized data associated with respective subsets of the users at of

the distributed front-end messaging systems, and providing at least one messaging

function to a given one of the users of a given one of the distributed front-end

messaging systems in dependence on the corresponding portion of the centralized data

stored in the given distributed front-end messaging system (column 7, lines 23-33).


Regarding **claim(s) 18**, Elliot discloses a centralized data store adapted for use

in a messaging system comprising a plurality of distributed front-end messaging

systems associated with the centralized data store (column 6, lines 4-17), the

distributed front-end messaging systems being remotely located from one another and

from the centralized data store, the centralized data store being adapted for

communication with said distributed front-end messaging systems over a network

(column 6, lines 30-42), the centralized data store including means for storing data

associated with users of the distributed front-end messaging systems, the distributed

front-end messaging systems further including respective means for storing respective

different portions of the centralized data (column 6, lines 4-17), the respective different

portions being associated with respective subsets of the users of said distributed front-

end messaging systems (column 7, lines 12-22), such that at least one messaging

function can be provided to a given one of the users of a given one of said distributed

front-end messaging systems in dependence on the portion of the centralized data

stored therein (column 7, lines 23-33).


## *Response to Arguments*

3.      Applicant's arguments with respect to **claim(s) 1-18** have been considered but

are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


## *Conclusion*

4.      Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (571) 272-

7539. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Gerald Gauthier
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614


GG
November 21, 2006